Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17. (Canceled)

Claim18. (Currently Amended) A continuous method for producing polarizing films, that comprises:

monoaxially stretching a polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, such that the PVA film is drawn to a draw ratio of at least 5 times, and the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched based on the following conditions:

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \qquad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \qquad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m), and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min).

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein said stretched film has a width (C) and the ratio (A/C) of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film width (C) is at least 5.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the ratio (A/B) of the stretching distance (A) to the stretched film speed (B) is at least 1.0 (minute).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the temperature of the aqueous boric acid solution ranges from 30 and 90° C.

Claim 22 and 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polarizing films are produced by a series of steps of swelling a polyvinyl alcohol film, dyeing the film, monoaxially stretching the polyvinyl alcohol film in an aqueous boric acid solution, fixing the film, and drying the film.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 95 mol %.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 25, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 98 mol %.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99 mol %.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 27, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of hydrolysis of at least 99.5

mol %.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1000.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 29, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 1500.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 30, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a degree of polymerization of at least 2000.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film has a thickness ranging from 10 to 100 μm.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains a polyhydric alcohol serving as a plasticizer.

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) The method for producing polarizing films as claimed in claim 18, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol film contains an anionic or nonionic surfactant.

Claim 35. (Canceled)

Claim 36. (New) A continuous method for producing polarizing films, that comprises:

swelling a PVA film;

coloring the PVA film;

monoaxially stretching a polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, such that the PVA film is drawn to a draw ratio of at least 5 times, and the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched based on the following conditions:

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \quad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \quad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m), and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min);

fixing the stretched film in an aqueous boric acid or potassium iodide solution; and

drying the colored film.

Claim 37. (New) A continuous method for producing polarizing films, that comprises:

swelling a PVA film;

coloring the PVA film;

monoaxially stretching a polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, such that the PVA film is drawn to a draw ratio of at least 5 times, and the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched based on the following conditions:

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \quad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \quad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m), and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min);

fixing the stretched film in an aqueous boric acid or potassium iodide solution;

drying the colored film; and

heating the colored film.

Claim 38. (New) A continuous method for producing polarizing films, that comprises:

monoaxially stretching an unstretched polyvinyl alcohol film having a width of at least 2 m in an aqueous boric acid solution, such that the PVA film is drawn to a draw ratio of at least 5 times, and the polyvinyl alcohol film is stretched based on the following conditions:

$$A \geq 5 \text{ (m)} \quad (1)$$

$$A/B \geq 0.5 \text{ (min)} \quad (2)$$

wherein A indicates the stretching distance (m), and B indicates the stretched film speed (m/min).